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--ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Some embodiments provide a method of pre-computing routes for nets in a region of an integrated circuit ("IC") layout. The method initially defines a set of partitioning lines for partitioning the region into a plurality of sub-regions during a routing operation. For a particular set of potential sub-regions, the method then identifies a set of routes that traverse the particular set of potential sub-regions, where at least one of the identified routes has at least one diagonal edge. The method then stores the identified routes.--

REMARKS

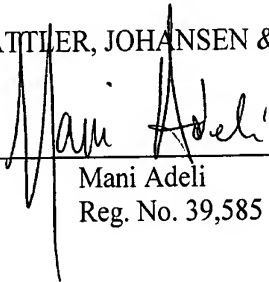
This Preliminary Amendments is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have changed the title of this application, inserted a reference to the related parent application, canceled claims 1-26, added claims 27-45, and replaced the

Summary and Abstract. Accordingly, claims 27-45 are currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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